AMENDMENT: IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as noted below, without prejudice to subsequent renewal. The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the changes is replete throughout the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed. Any changes made are without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment or dedication of any previously claimed subject matter, or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A process for suppressing the demyelination of nerve fibers in the central nervous system of a human being or nonhuman primate in need of such treatment wherein said human being or nonhuman primate is treated with an amount of nerve growth factor (NGF) or with an amount of active fragments of NGF, which fragments are selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S, NGF 7S, and an NGF fragment consisting of **the oligopeptide of SEQ ID NO:1 and the oligopeptide of SEQ ID NO:2**~~**amino acids 10-25 and 75-88 of NGF**~~ linked by a disulfide bridge, which amount is effective to suppress demyelination.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said nerve growth factor is human NGF-β.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, comprising the administration of at least one protease inhibitor in combination with said NGF.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 4, wherein said protease inhibitor is aprotinin.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein said NGF is administered in an amount sufficient to produce a concentration of NGF or an active fragment of NGF between 0.05μg and 5μg/kg body weight.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (**Currently Amended**) A process for suppressing further demyelination in the central nervous system of a human being or nonhuman primate having a disease in which a demyelination of nerve fibers occurs, comprising administering an amount of nerve growth

factor or an amount of an active fragment thereof, which fragment is selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S, NGF 7S, and an NGF fragment consisting of **the oligopeptide of SEQ ID NO:1 and the oligopeptide of SEQ ID NO:2**~~**amino acids 10-25 and 75-88 of NGF**~~ linked by a disulfide bridge, which amount is effective to suppress further demyelination.

13. (Original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the nerve growth factor is administered intravenously or intrathecally.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for suppressing further demyelination in the central nervous system of a human being or nonhuman primate having an inflammatory disease of the optic nerve, comprising administering an effective amount of NGF or an active fragment of NGF selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S and NGF 7S.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said effective amount of NGF or an active fragment of NGF is between 10-300 pg NGF/ml blood.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (**Currently Amended**) A method for suppressing demyelination in the central nervous system of a human being or nonhuman primate having an inflammatory disease of a nervous tissue, said method comprising administering an effective amount of NGF, or an active fragment of NGF, which active fragment is selected from the group consisting of NGF 2.5S, NGF 7S, and an NGF fragment consisting of **the oligopeptide of SEQ ID NO:1 and the oligopeptide of SEQ ID NO:2**~~**amino acids 10-25 and 75-88 of NGF**~~ linked by a disulfide bridge, wherein said effective amount is sufficient to downregulate the production of interferon γ by T cells infiltrating the central nervous system.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said effective amount is sufficient to upregulate the production of IL-10 in glial cells in the central nervous system.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said inflammatory disease is autoimmune encephalomyelitis.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said inflammatory disease is multiple sclerosis.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said subject is a human.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said subject is a non-human mammal.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said NGF is human NGF-β.

26-28. (Cancelled)